

Remarks

The present response is submitted in reply to the final office action dated January 2, 2004. In the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12, 14 and 18-29 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Moreover, claims 32 and 35 were deemed allowable.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 32 and 35 have been deemed allowable. Applicants have added claims 36-53 that generally correspond to claims 2-11, 18-22, and 26-29, but now depend from independent claim 35 rather than claim 1. These claims should be deemed allowable since they are now dependent from allowed claim 35. Further, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-12, 14, and 18-29.

Conclusion

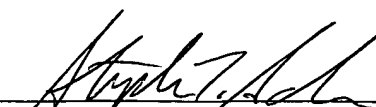
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in allowable form and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants further submit that neither further search nor consideration would be necessitated by entry of this amendment. Therefore, entry is proper and should be effected.

If, however, any outstanding issues remain, Applicants urge the Examiner to telephone Applicants' attorney so that the same may be resolved and the application expedited to issue. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to indicate all claims as allowable and to pass the application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,



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